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COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES
Preparatory Commission
Third session
Geneva, 21 September 1981

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN ON THE THIRD SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION HELD FROM 21 TO 25 SEPTEMBER 1981

A. Opening of the session

1. The third session of the Preparatory Commission was opened by the Chairman, Mr. J.-V. Gbeho (Ghana), on 21 September 1981. The Acting Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD (Mr. A. McIntyre) made an introductory statement.

B. Adoption of the agenda (Agenda item 1)

2. At its 8th meeting, on 21 September 1981, the Preparatory Commission adopted the following agenda, on the understanding that this in no way prejudiced the order in which the various items would be taken up by the Commission:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Matters dealt with by Working Party I
3. Matters dealt with by Working Party II 1/
4. Adoption of the rules of procedure
5. Progress report on signature and ratification of the Agreement
6. Other business.

C. Adoption of the rules of procedure (Agenda item 4)

3. At its 9th meeting, on 22 September 1981, the Preparatory Commission, pursuant to paragraph 2 of its resolution 3 (II), took up, on a priority basis, the question of the adoption of its rules of procedure. At its 10th meeting, on 25 September 1981, the Preparatory Commission adopted its rules of procedure as contained in document CF/PC/4.

1/ Owing to lack of time, the Preparatory Commission was unable to take up agenda item 3.

D. Matters dealt with by Working Party I (Agenda item 2)

4. The Preparatory Commission considered the draft rules of procedure of the Governing Council (CF/PC/R.4), the draft rules of procedure for meetings of the Executive Board (CF/PC/R.5) and the draft rules and regulations for the conduct of the business of the Fund (CF/PC/R.6), as prepared by Working Party I. The texts of these drafts, as revised by the Preparatory Commission, will be circulated in documents CF/PC/R.7, R.8 and R.9.

5. The Commission also had before it a technical note (CF/PC/WP.I/R.4) on the delegation of powers by the Governing Council to the Executive Board, which it did not have time to discuss in detail. The spokesman for the Latin American Group stated that the Governing Council should delegate specific powers to the Executive Board, rather than reserving certain powers to itself and by implication delegating all other powers to the Executive Board. The representative of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD drew attention to the practical difficulties in following such a procedure as it was not possible to prepare an exhaustive list of all powers. The spokesman for Group D said that his Group favoured delegating to the Executive Board only those powers referred to in the Agreement as powers of the Fund.

E. Progress report on signature and ratification of the Agreement (Agenda item 5)

6. At its 10th meeting, on 25 September 1981, the Preparatory Commission took note of a progress report by the secretariat (CF/PC/L.8), giving the situation as at 18 September 1981 as regards signature and ratification of the Agreement establishing the Common Fund for Commodities.

F. Programme of work and schedule of meetings

7. At its 10th meeting, on 25 September 1981, the Preparatory Commission, pursuant to paragraph 3 of its resolution 3 (II), reviewed its programme of work and schedule of meetings and agreed to the revised schedule of meetings contained in the annex to this report.

8. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Commission took note of a statement of expenditures incurred against the advance authorized by the General Assembly submitted by the secretariat in document CF/PC/L.9.

G. Replacement of two Vice-Chairmen

9. At its 10th meeting, on 25 September 1981, the Preparatory Commission elected Mr. A. Hotton Minler (Argentina) and Mr. D. Browne (Canada) as Vice-Chairmen of the Commission, to replace Mr. A. Martini Urdaneta (Venezuela) and Mr. T.A. Bermes (Canada) respectively.

H. Credentials

10. At its 10th meeting, on 25 September 1981, the Preparatory Commission, on the recommendation of the Bureau, approved the credentials of the representatives of States participating in the session, on the understanding that the States which had not yet submitted their credentials would do so within the next few days.

I. Participation 2/

11. The following States members of the Preparatory Commission were represented at the session: Algeria; Angola; Argentina; Australia; Austria; Bangladesh; Belgium; Bolivia; Brazil; Bulgaria; Canada; Chile; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Cuba; Czechoslovakia; Democratic Yemen; Denmark; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Ethiopia; Finland; France; Germany, Federal Republic of; Ghana; Greece; Guatemala; Honduras; India; Indonesia; Iraq; Ireland; Italy; Ivory Coast; Jamaica; Japan; Kenya; Liberia; Luxembourg; Madagascar; Malaysia; Mali; Malta; Mexico; Morocco; Netherlands; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Norway; Pakistan; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Republic of Korea; Romania; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Spain; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Sweden; Switzerland; Syrian Arab Republic; Thailand; Trinidad and Tobago; Tunisia; Turkey; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United Republic of Cameroon; United Republic of Tanzania; United States of America; Uruguay; Venezuela; Viet Nam; Yugoslavia; Zaire. The European Economic Community was also represented.

12. The following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations, admitted as observers by the Preparatory Commission at its second session, also attended the session: United Nations Industrial Development Organization; United Nations Development Programme; International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; World Bank; International Monetary Fund; General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; African Groundnut Council; Association of Iron Ore Exporting Countries; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; Organization of American States.

2/ For the list of participants, see CF/PC/INF.3

ANNEX

Revised schedule of meetings

Working Party II (Operational and financial matters)

Second session (14-18 December 1981)

First Account operations, including borrowing; and Financial regulations

Third session (25-29 January 1982)

Second Account operations, including borrowing

Working Party I (Administrative, legal and procedural matters)

Second session (22-26 March 1982)

Preparatory Commission

Fourth session (17-28 May 1982)